

Central NH Regional Planning Commission

28 Commercial Street, Suite #3

Concord, NH, 03301

Tel: (603) 226-6020

www.cnhrpc.org



Transportation Advisory Committee

June 4th, 2021

Minutes

9:00 A.M.

Attendees	
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford	Richard Moore, Town of Chichester
Stan Brehm, Town of Chichester	Sam Durfee, City of Concord
Karen Hill, City of Concord	Donna White, Town of Dunbarton
Betsy Bosiak, Town of Epsom	Joe Devine, Town of Henniker
Robyn Payson, Town of Hillsborough	Dave White, Town of Hopkinton
Carolyn Cronin, Town of Pembroke	Emilio Cancio-Bello, Town of Sutton
Tim Blagden, Town of Warner	Andy Bodnarik, Town of Warner
Cameron Prolman, SNHPC	Dick Lemieux, Merrimack River Greenway Trail
Cindy Yanski, Mid State Mobility Manager, CAPBMCI	Lucy St. John, NHDOT Bureau of Planning

Commission Staff: Craig Tufts, Dean Williams, Katie Nelson, Matt Baronas, Mike Tardiff

Introductions

The meeting began at 9:00 AM, called to order by the Chair. Mike Tardiff then read a statement pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, authorizing the TAC to meet electronically. All TAC members and guests present introduced themselves.

Review and Approve Minutes of the April 2nd, 2021, TAC Meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 2nd, 2021, TAC meeting.

M/S/Passed Tim Blagden/Donna White

Regional Trails Plan Update

Craig Tufts introduced the Regional Trails Plan and its contents. The plan was originally developed in 2012 with a focus on the Concord to Salem rail corridor as part of the Granite State Rail Trail. The current update to the plan is using the same approach as last time by coordinating efforts between CNHRPC, SNHPC, municipalities and local trail groups. The term trails refer to smooth, mostly flat, accessible trails that can be used for transportation and connecting communities. Craig noted that the plan discusses the benefits of these types of trails such as public health, economic development, quality of life and the environment.

Craig introduced the Existing Conditions section by sharing a map from the plan showing the existing and planned regional trail network which also includes many spur trails off of the Concord to Salem Corridor. He pointed out major gaps such as the need to connect Manchester to Concord. Craig also highlighted the Northern Rail Trail which runs 58 miles from Lebanon to Boscawen. He noted that the City of Concord has drafted a purchase and sales agreement to obtain a section of abandoned railroad from Horseshoe Pond in Concord to the Boscawen line. He mentioned there is a separate negotiation ongoing for the purchase of the corridor from the Boscawen line to the terminus of the Northern rail Trail. He continued to identify other existing and planned multi-use paths in Concord as well as sections of abandoned railroad along the north-south corridor in Pembroke and Allenstown.

Craig added that the plan also discusses the different rail trail organizations as well as their purpose, successes and ongoing projects. He continued by reviewing funding sources for trails and their limitations as well as the need to consider incorporating trail projects as part of larger intersection and corridor projects. He identified some challenges and opportunities that are discussed within the draft plan such as trail maintenance, fundraising, volunteerism and electric bikes. Craig also discussed the bicycle and pedestrian data collection efforts throughout the region including various trends on different trails. Craig finished his presentation by reviewing comments and data collected through a public survey. Craig concluded that the draft plan is available on our website and observing a public comment period. Later this year it's expected that the final plan will be available for the TAC to review and recommend for adoption by the Full Commission.

Regional Project Funding Updates:

- **NHDOT Ten Year Plan (TYP) Update**

Lucy St. John stated that NHDOT had begun drafting the Draft FY2023-2032 TYP and that the Governor's Advisory Council on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) hearings will begin later this summer. Dean added that discussions between CNHRPC and NHDOT indicated that the projects that were recommended by the region to be included in the updated draft TYP will be included. He added that there may also be a new bridge project included in Hillsborough on NH 149 over the Contoocook River.

- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Dean informed the TAC that there had been discussions at NHDOT to potentially increase the number of TAP projects being awarded to begin the design phases as soon as possible and allow the project construction phases to stagger over the future years. This would also effectively double the funding being awarded if the concept is moved forward. These conversations as well as some discussions regarding alternative funding sources such as Member Designated Projects, will likely delay the announcement for TAP Application Awards.

- **Member Designated Projects (House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)**

Dean provided some background information on the Member Designated Project application which were requested through Representative Kuster's office in the CNHRPC region. Representative Kuster's list of projects is available on the Representative's website which included four projects in the CNHRPC region, including the top two TAP projects from the CNHRPC region as well as two projects that have been included in the TYP for many years.

- Congressional Designated Spending Requests (Senate Earmarks)

Several communities in our region also prepared Congressional Designated Spending Requests through Senator Shaheen's office which ranged from transportation projects to municipal building improvements. Lucy St. John added that there are still many conversations happening at the congressional level and many more hearings to be held which will affect how these project requests are tied to federal legislation and whether NH will benefit.

Commute Smart NH (CSNH) Update

Katie Nelson pointed out the two major focuses for CSNH over the last two months. She shared some figures regarding the Spring Challenge including the emissions and cost savings from the trips logged. She added that CSNH is in the process of procuring a ride matching software for the state. She noted that the software will do more than just ride matching such as transit planning and events/challenges.

Next Meeting Date

The next TAC meeting was scheduled for August 6th, 2021, at 9:00 A.M

Any Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned by the chair at 9:49am.